

Boldt, of the Waldorf-Astoria, Plans a \$60,000,000 Hotel.



WHEN Mr. George C. Boldt, the manager of the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, talks about hotels he is a most interesting man to listen to. He told a representative last week that in another hotel he will have outgrown its own accommodations, and that he has already planned a new hotel which shall be to the Waldorf-Astoria what the Waldorf-Astoria now is to the country tavern.

A new hotel, if he lives to see it built, for 10,000 persons, and will cost \$60,000,000. The light of his experience in the Waldorf-Astoria has led him to plan this new hotel. He has disabused the wealthy patrons of New York's hotels of the idea that they are willing to pay for all the comfort that he can provide. This is the keynote in the construction and management of his new hotel.

Mr. BOLDT is a man of imagination as well as of practical mind. As an instance of what he believes rich Americans will like, he will enclose the three lower stories of the greater Waldorf-Astoria in glass. Under the glass there will be floral loveliness unstinted. This will be but one of many unique features. It will be the only world having such a feature.

Two stories will be given up to the drawing rooms, a theatre, reception rooms and the like. Mr. Boldt's people love splendor and sensuous surroundings—the glitter of brilliant lights, the reflection of the statuary, gorgeous hangings, and among the things. In an ensemble such as this the guests of the Waldorf-Astoria will meet and enjoy themselves, chatting, lounging, listening to the music. The hotel in its lavish splendor, and so far as hotels are concerned, is unparalleled.

All this life and excitement and ostentation, the guests will reach by the quick flight of noiseless elevators, of his own suite. The transition will be as the lights and scenes below were alluring. Thus the two wholly different sections of the hotel—the one the pleasures of life, the other to the comfort and private room. When a man has tired of the one he can, and vice versa, the next minute.

His experience as the leading hotel manager, Mr. Boldt, has led him to plan this new hotel. To a Journalist.

And that the American to-day wants luxury. The hotel is decidedly marked here in this house. They are growing richer year by year and the best is being given them.

They are growing discriminating, too, as I find day after day. The desire for exclusiveness on their part proves the result of my calculations. While I can comfortably accommodate 10,000 people, I am frequently in the position of having less than half that number.

The present house will answer for several years, but the demand of five years from now, or ten years, will be of proportions too mammoth for one of course, for ground space in the locality where so high to warrant any one man attempting to assume the cost of a building such as will be not be business-like to mention names, but I believe that at least four men known to the world would consider the feasibility of it.

Waldorf-Astoria cost \$15,000,000. The new hotel at least \$60,000,000. The present hotel is a building and occupies a third of a block. The new hotel will occupy a block at least as large in area as the old one. It will extend from Fifth avenue to the city hall, and will accommodate five times as many people as the old one. That is to say, 10,000.

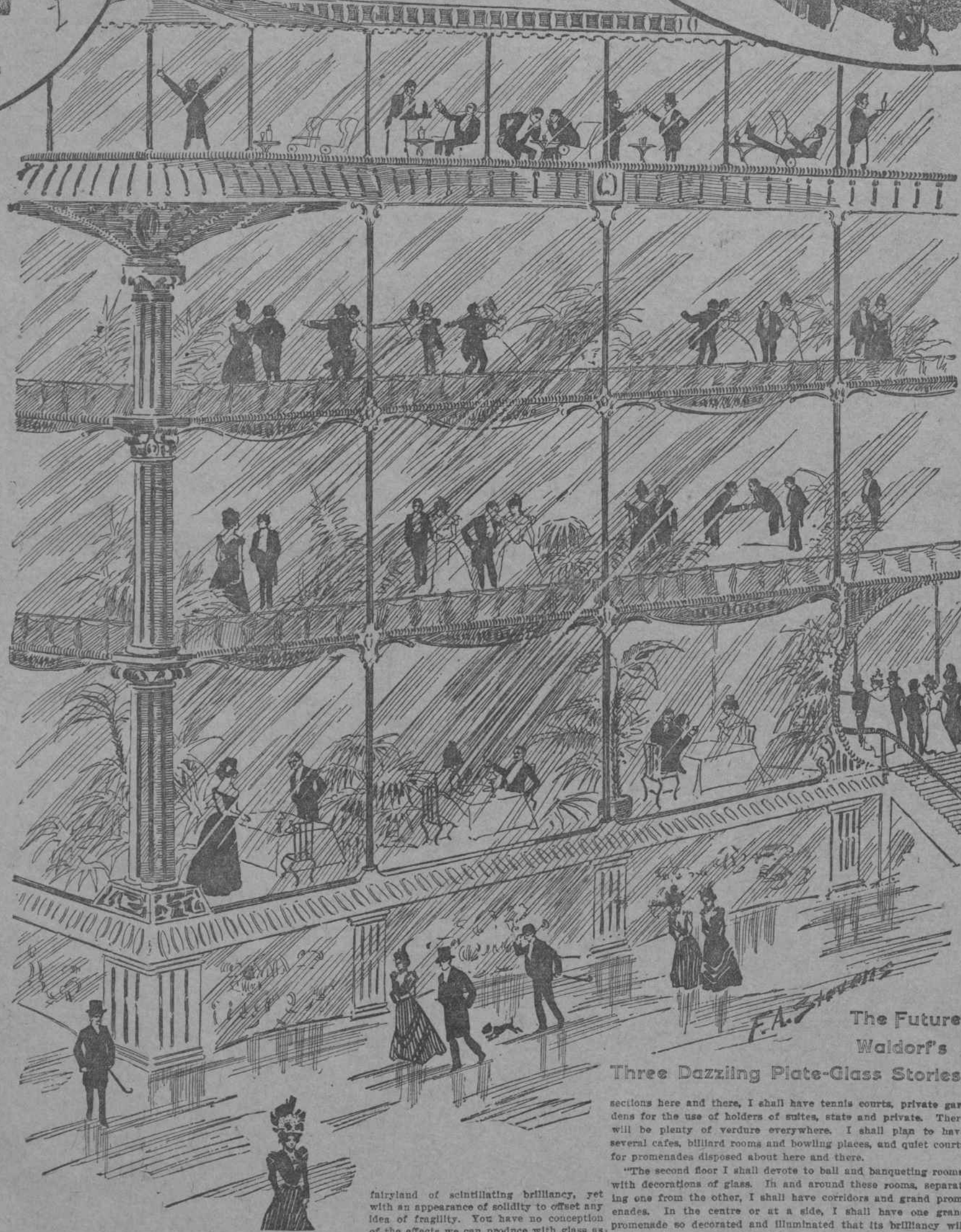
plan the first three stories for show and the pleasures of life. Above that I will devote great thought upon how perfect exclusiveness for my patrons. Exclusiveness is a both indispensable.

I have the new house twice as high as the present hotel. The desire nowadays grows for apartments up in the air. The rapid and wonderful growth of the city and the service afforded by them lends impetus to this desire. There are other logical reasons for this.

The almost inconceivable magnitude of the undertaking, its chief distinguishing feature will be that it will have to be in a different place, and it will have to be in a different place.

QUE FEATURES OF MR. BOLDT'S \$60,000,000 HOTEL.

entire stories closed in glass.
wing Room ceiling and floor made of glass.
is courts and private gardens.
promenades, private elevators.
ballroom and concert hall.
modations for 10,000 persons.
decorations.
all kinds of baths.
miniature sea beach.
valuable kitchen.



"I shall have the first three stories constructed so that morning, noon and night they will make a scene of splendor that will outline any combination ever dreamed of by the imagination. Everything that can by any possibility be made of glass will be utilized.

"Side walls, ceilings, floors, pillars, all will be of glass. The effect will be beautiful and pleasing to the eye and senses. I would so plan the decorations that they, too, would appear to have nothing solid to them. Thus, these three floors would be so constructed and so decorated that they would make a perfect

fairland of scintillating brilliancy, yet with an appearance of solidity to offset any idea of fragility. You have no conception of the effects we can produce with glass as a material of architecture. This is but the beginning of the plate glass age, and there is no limit beyond which one may go without offending good taste. With this glass background and ensemble I would mingle all the verdure I could crowd in. Nothing goes so well with glass and light as green.

"Those three first floors I shall devote entirely to public rooms. On the ground floor I will make a perfect ground work for the hotel proper. I will devote it to the main offices and the careful location of the hundreds of entrances, large and small. In

sections here and there, I shall have tennis courts, private gardens for the use of holders of suites, state and private. There will be plenty of verdure everywhere. I shall plan to have several cafes, billiard rooms and bowling places, and quiet courts for promenades disposed about here and there.

"The second floor I shall devote to ball and banqueting rooms with decorations of glass. In and around these rooms, separating one from the other, I shall have corridors and grand promenades. In the centre or at a side, I shall have one grand promenade so decorated and illuminated that its brilliancy will be beyond conception. I shall have it wide and light and sweeping in all its effect, capable of affording passing room for 5,000 people.

"I shall arrange the means for centring as much illuminating power in it as is now required to light the present hotel, which supplies 15,000 lights of varying sizes, and would illuminate a village the size of Yonkers.

"On the third floor I shall plan to have memorial galleries and reception rooms as annexes to state apartments, palm gardens, tea rooms, cafes, private dining rooms, a theatre and a concert hall. I shall have the theatre for subscription performances only. It will be for the use of guests and their guests.

"The use of the rosary seems especially suited to the East, and to the repose of an Oriental mind. The Buddhists are fond of using very smooth beads of glass, polished jade or coral, and it has been thought that the smooth, cool beads gliding through their fingers, as they murmur the holy names thousands of times, help them to arrive at that state of holy abstraction from things earthly which is so much prized among the followers of Buddha.

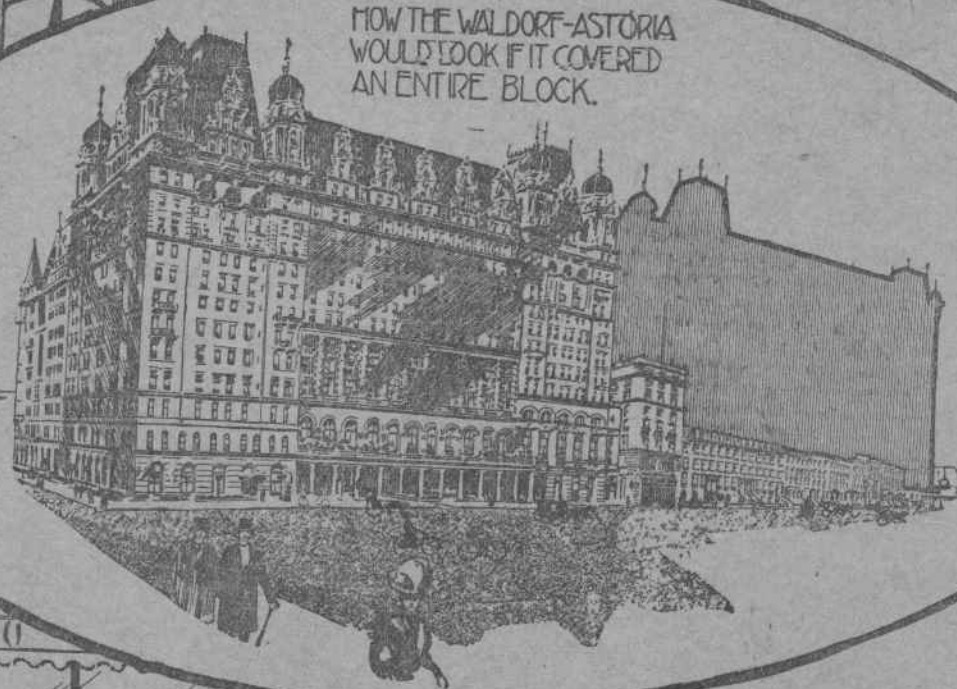
The favorite Japanese rosaries are made of polished woods, crystal, onyx and chased silver, and the Japanese Buddhists repeat in endless devotion "Namu Amida Nutsu" ("Save us, Buddha"), while their Chinese brothers have the blessed name "O-mi-to-fu" forever on their lips.

A huge string of beads has been found in the possession of a collector in the north of England. This was brought from a temple in Kiotu, Japan. The huge beads are of a dark-brown polished wood. They are hollow and have each a figure of a God inside the little shrine, which can be seen through the lattice of brass work. From its great size it must have been hung on the walls of the temple. The largest bead is about six inches in diameter, and the rosary about twenty-four feet long.

A superb rosary, made of perfect pearls, discovered in the possession of a Moslem, is valued at 20,000,000 piastres.

The rosary that is regarded as the gem of the entire collection so far found is in the possession of the South Kensington Museum. The beads are little cubes of coral, and the large beads and cross are in filigree silver and a silver medallion. It is German work of the sixteenth century.

HOW THE WALDORF-ASTORIA WOULD LOOK IF IT COVERED AN ENTIRE BLOCK.



This idea is the result of the growing demand for exclusiveness on the part of the American who can afford to gratify tastes that come from the liberal education each succeeding generation is receiving. And a theatre where one knows just who compose the audience will find favor in the eyes of my clientele to a person, and I could easily utilize such a place if I had it now.

"I will keep the life and light in these three stories which I have spoken of as brilliant as glitter and color, aided by music, can make it, for the public like this, they feed on it, and its luxuriousness is only made the more fascinating by a crush and turmoil that result from the bustle of gay and sociable people.

"I can make an ensemble of this series of public places that will prove a profitable investment from its very first hour, for the demand for it is increasing every day. My first design in all floors from the fourth to within two or three from the roof will be to secure for my patrons exclusiveness. Two-thirds of each floor will contain suites as completely isolated from the hotel in general as if in a private residence. Each will have an elevator of its own, landing at a private entrance on the ground floor. This will mean the sacrifice of a great deal of room, but it would pay. I am now trying to devise means of putting in private elevators here in the Astoria for many of the suites. I already have several in the state suites, and they have proved more than a profitable investment.

"I have millionaires and guests with only moderate incomes who would pay double the prices they now pay if they were given twice the glitter they now see and twice the elegance they now have.

"So after having planned and arranged and rearranged these first floors for the show, when I reach the fourth floor I will begin to make things radically different. My first design in all floors from the fourth to within two or three from the roof will be to secure for my patrons exclusiveness. Two-thirds of each floor will contain suites as completely isolated from the hotel in general as if in a private residence. Each will have an elevator of its own, landing at a private entrance on the ground floor. This will mean the sacrifice of a great deal of room, but it would pay. I am now trying to devise means of putting in private elevators here in the Astoria for many of the suites. I already have several in the state suites, and they have proved more than a profitable investment.

"Each of the suites I have mentioned in the new place will have openings to the outside world. Smaller suites and single rooms will have, if not outside openings, at least an opening into a court, for the building will have courts innumerable. No sound will reach to the living rooms above the third floor save that which comes from the outside world.

"In addition to the elevators to lend exclusiveness to these suites I have mentioned I shall have a dummy service that will have direct communication to the culinary department or its branches.

"In every respect these rooms will have a homelike character, with quarters for servants and storage, and gradations of elegance according to the desires of the occupants. As for furnishing, I could not improve on the present hotel. It is as perfect as human skill can make it.

"On each of these floors of living rooms there will be banquetting rooms and rooms of a public nature for receptions and minor functions. I find the state suites very much in demand and each floor will have its suite fashioned after given historical periods.

"I shall endeavor to reach the limit of exclusiveness by having near the top of the building two clubs fashioned after the most modern of their kind. On one side of the building I will have a club for gentlemen and at the other side a club for ladies.

"These clubs will be fashioned on a scale commensurate with the surroundings. I have no doubt whatsoever of the success of the men's club. The ladies' club will be in the nature of an experiment. They will be virtually buildings within a building, and in architectural detail fully on a scale with the rest of the place. There is a certain element among my male clientele who when they come to New York will be glad of a retreat such as this will offer, and who now either have not the opportunity or the inclination to visit the many popular clubs of the city for this reason and that.

"When arranging this hotel there was no great care expended on the roof of the building, that is as to arrangement, and when we decided to make a roof garden of it we found in a short time that our space was all too small. In the new house I am describing I shall have a roof garden for both Summer and Winter, giving preference to the one intended for a Summer garden, which will rise high above every other floor. I shall give much care to the formation of the roof and use every effort to make a place as bewildering to the eye as possible. Walks and verdure and quiet nooks will be relieved by open spaces for tables and small performances.

"I shall have broad stairs and balustrades leading to the floor next to the roof, which will be given over to baths and lounging places. I shall build on the floor what will be a good imitation of a miniature sea beach, where those so inclined may tumble about and enjoy the relaxation of an hour on the sand. There will be a salt water plunge, under glass. Around this in proper arrangement I shall have baths of every description, all under glass.

"This, roughly, is how I shall arrange the main features of the place. There are a thousand details I shall try to experiment with if possible, as, for instance, an elevator kitchen. That is, I shall have a big elevator that will be a kitchen, with a capacity equal to the kitchen of an ordinary hotel, that can be moved from floor to floor, wherever the service is demanded, and will be especially valuable when banquets are given on a floor above the third or fourth.

"I shall have a system of pneumatic tubes in the place, through which almost anything can be delivered on call. On each floor I shall have a sub-office, and guests on a floor might have their many wants supplied for days without ever descending to the lower world should they prefer the quietude of their floors to the bustle and life beneath.

"By the time this hotel is a fact electricity will be used for every purpose in the kitchen except for broiling. Nothing will ever replace charcoal for that. And I believe that electricity will perform most of all of the offices that steam and heat now do. We are having evidences of this fact here every day.

"I will not attempt to name the number of servants this great house will require—several thousand, of course. The running expense of this place a day will be as much as it requires to run the entire fleet of the French Line of steamboats a day.

"I believe the receipts for one day can be made to exceed those of the Grand Union Hotel, in Saratoga, at the season's height, and the Ponce de Leon, in Florida, combined."

CURIOUS ROSARIES THAT HAVE COME FROM STRANGE PLACES.



THE British Museum recently received a curious and gruesome rosary from the mysterious land of Thibet. It is composed of thin discs made from a human skull, finished at the end with three peach kernels and strung on a common piece of string.

What uncanny rites this rosary has assisted in can only be conjectured. Its discovery has opened the eyes of the religious people who have regarded the rosary heretofore as the symbol of piety and devotion to the cause of the true church.

Side by side with the human skull rosary in a glass case at the British Museum repose two more whose discovery has proved almost as shocking to the people of Chris-

tian countries. One is made of the vertebrae of a snake's backbone, and the other of rats' teeth. The discovery of these curious rosaries has caused an animated discussion to be opened on the whole subject of rosaries, and many are the strange samples that have come to light through the publicity given to the topic.

The rosary is found to have originated in the mysterious East, for it is among the temples of India, China and Japan that the first sign of the practice of prayer by the aid of beads is to be found. Ancient pictures of the Hindu gods depict them with chaplets of beads in their hands, and it is believed that this method of keeping count of their many prayers was in use among the Hindus before the era of Buddha, so at least B. C. 500.

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